



For Immediate Release: January 24, 2017  
Contact: Joseph Centorino, Executive Director  
(305) 350-0613 or [centori@miamidade.gov](mailto:centori@miamidade.gov)

### **Ethics Commission conference to address questions of Cuban trade**

The Miami-Dade County Commission on Ethics and Public Trust (COE) will sponsor a day-long conference on Friday, March 10, 2017, on ***Doing Business in Cuba: Legal, Ethical and Compliance Challenges***, in conjunction with Barry University, to try to bring a different perspective to the changing relationship between the U.S. and the island nation. The conference will run from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Barry's School of Business, 11300 NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Miami Shores, 33161.

The conference will feature government, legal and academic experts discussing topics including: Big Picture Outline of the Ethical Challenges Presented in Cuba; Should I (or Anyone) Do Business in Cuba?; Doing business in Cuba: Local Political and Ethical Perspectives and a Look to the Future; How to Do Business in Cuba Legally and Ethically; and Ethical and Compliance Dilemmas. The keynote speaker will be John Kavulich, President of the U.S. – Cuba Trade and Economic Council, Inc., in New York City and editor of *Economic Eye on Cuba*. The title of his address is, "What Does Engagement with Cuba Reveal (Or Conceal) About Your Ethical Compass? Comparing Cuba with Other Countries."

"While much has been said about the cultural and commercial hurdles facing American companies adjusting to the new, open business climate after six decades of the trade embargo, there has been little discussion regarding ethical issues," said Ethics Commission Executive Director Joseph Centorino. "There have been many conferences on *how* to do business in Cuba," he said, "but not much on the ethics of doing business with Cuba. I expect this event to produce lively and informative debates, as well as some soul-searching," he added.

According to Barry Business School Dean Tomislav Mandakovic, "The Core Commitments of Barry University— Knowledge and Truth, Collaborative Service, Inclusive Community and Social Justice—support our role as hosts for this conference since we have the unique ability to examine how business leadership can positively influence significant social change. We are convinced that responsible leadership will be the only way to bring Cuba and its people into a sustainable development path, and by responsible we mean a leadership that is ethical, accountable, and socially conscious," Dean Mandakovic added.

Some of the conference participants include Miami Beach Mayor Philip Levine, Coral Gables Mayor Jim Cason, Doral Mayor J. C. Bermudez, Miami International Airport Director Emilio Gonzalez, former COE Chairman and current Commissioner Nelson Bellido, along with noted attorneys Anna Maria Hernandez, Richard Montes de Oca, Pedro Freyre, Peter Quinter, Yosbel Ibarra, Augusto Maxwell, Rebekah Poston and others. From academic circles will be FIU Law School Dean Alexander Acosta, St. Thomas University Professor Marcia Narine Weldon, Assistant St. Thomas Professor, Sister Ondina Cortes, Dr. Jose Azel from the University of Miami and Dr. Nichole Castater and Dr. Sean Foreman of Barry University.

The cost for the day-long event, which includes breakfast, lunch and all meeting materials, is \$50 person. Registration information can be found at [ethics.miamidade.gov](http://ethics.miamidade.gov) or by calling 305-579-2594. Application has been made for Continuing Legal Education credits.

*The Ethics Commission was created in 1996 as an independent agency with advisory and quasi-judicial powers. It is composed of five members, serving staggered terms of four years each. Through a program of education, outreach and enforcement, the Commission seeks to empower the community and bolster public trust.*

###